WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   1.   A master guide table for a digital broadcast protocol comprising identification

2   information for classifying whether contents of an event information table in a bit stream

3   syntax are shifted in time or changed.

1   2.   The master guide table of claim 1, wherein the master guide table manages a version

2   and packet identification number (PID) for each table, including the event information table,

3   which are defined in a program and system information protocol (PSIP) for a digital

4   broadcast.

1   3.   The master guide table of claim 1, wherein the identification information indicates, by

2   allocating at least one bit in a reserved field in master guide table (MGT), whether the

3   contents of the event information table are shifted in time or changed.

1   4.   The master guide table of claim 3, wherein the reserved field in the master guide table

2   is situated in a "for_loop" statement in the bit stream syntax.

1   5.   The master guide table of claim 3, wherein the bit value is "0" when the event

2   information table is merely shifted, and "1" when the event information table is changed.

1   6.   A method of broadcasting using a master guide table for a digital broadcast protocol,

2   the method comprising:

16

3   (a) preparing, at a transmitting side, a present event information table comprising

4   contents pertaining to a broadcast event;

5   (b) preparing, at the transmitting side, a master guide table for the digital broadcast

6   protocol, including in the master guide table identification information which classifies

7   whether the contents of the present event information table in a bit stream syntax are shifted

8   in time or changed;

9   (c) transmitting the master guide table and the present event information table to a

10   receiving side;

11   (c) receiving, at the receiving side, the master guide table including the identification

12   information, and the present event information table, and parsing the identification

13   information and the present event information table; and

14   (d) selectively updating a database having parsed contents of a previous event

15   information table with the parsed contents of the present event information table in

16   accordance with the parsed identification information.

1   7.   The method of claim 6, wherein the selective updating step (d) does not update the

2   database with the parsed contents of the present event information table when the parsed

3   identification information indicates that the present event information table is shifted in time,

4   while updating the database with the parsed contents of the present event information table

5   when the parsed identification information indicates that the present event information table

6   is changed.

1   8.   The method of claim 6, wherein the identification information comprises at least one

2   bit of a reserved field of the master guide table.

1   9.   The method of claim 8, wherein the bit has a value of 0 when the contents of the

2   present event information table are shifted, and has a value of 1 when the contents of the

3   present event information table are changed.

1   10.   The method of claim 6, wherein the transmitting step (c) comprises:

2   preparing at least one event information table based on the present time using event

3   information;

4   allocating a program identification PID value and a version number for each event

5   information table and including the identification information in the bit stream of the master

6   guide table (MGT); and

7   transmitting the master guide table to the receiving party after multiplexing the master

8   guide table with an audio transport bit stream and a video transport bit stream.

1   11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the identification information is included in a

2   reserved field of the master guide table.

1   12.   The method of claim 6, wherein the event information table is prepared for each

2   channel, each table comprising an event title, an event start time and an event end time for the

3   event, and an event caption.

13.   In a digital television receiver, a method of providing an electronic program guide,

comprising:

        receiving a digital broadcast signal comprising a master guide table and an event

information table;

        parsing the master guide table;

        retrieving identification information from the parsed master guide table indicating

whether contents of the event information table are actually changed or only shifted in time;

and

        and, in accordance with the parsed identification information, parsing the event

information table and selectively updating a database for the electronic program guide with

the parsed contents of the event information.

14.   The method of claim 13, wherein the database is not updated with the parsed contents

of the event information table when the parsed identification information indicates that the

present event information table is shifted in time, while the database is updated with the

parsed contents of the event information table when the parsed identification information

indicates that the event information table is changed.

15.   The method of claim 13, wherein retrieving the identification information comprises

reading a value of a bit assigned in a reserved field in the master guide table.

16

A 1   17.   The method of claim 13, wherein the bit has a value of 0 when the contents of the

2   present event information table are shifted, and has a value of 1 when the contents of the

3   present event information table are changed.